

CLAIMS

1. A method of producing a frangible fiberglass insulation batt,
the method comprising
5 passing a stream of fiberglass insulation through a cutter to cut the
 fiberglass insulation to form side-by-side separate strips separated by a gap,
 applying a binder to portions of at least one of the side-by-side separate
strips along the gap, and then
 passing the two side-by-side separate strips through a curing oven to
10 expose the strips and the binder applied to portions of at least one of the side-by-side
separate strips along the gap to a curing heat to polymerize the binder to establish a
frangible binder bridge spanning the gap to produce a frangible fiberglass insulation
batt.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the act of applying a binder to
15 portions of at least one of the side-by-side separate strips along the gap comprises
 intercepting and deflecting the stream of fiberglass insulation exiting
the cutter to separate the two side-by-side strips along a cut line therebetween to
expose side edges of the strips and provide a widened gap between the strips.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein the act of applying a binder to
20 portions of at least one of the side-by-side separate strips further comprises dispensing
a binder onto one or both of the opposing side edges of the strips.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein the act of applying a binder to
portions of at least one of the side-by-side separate strips further comprises
manipulating at least one of the strips to arrange the opposing side edges of the strips
25 to cause binder dispensed on one or both of the opposing side edges to polymerize
during exposure to the curing heat to bond with the strips to establish the frangible
polymerized binder bridge.
5. The method of claim 3, wherein the act of applying a binder to
portions of at least one of the side-by-side separate strips further comprises mating the
30 opposing side edges of the strips to cause any binder deposited therebetween to
polymerize during exposure to the curing heat to establish the frangible polymerized
binder bridge.

6. The method of claim 2, wherein the act of applying a binder to portions of at least one of the side-by-side separate strips further comprises dispensing a binder into the widened gap between the strips.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the act of applying a binder to
5 portions of at least one of the side-by-side separate strips further comprises mating the side-by-side separate strips to cause any binder deposited therebetween to polymerize during exposure to the curing heat to establish the frangible polymerized binder bridge.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the act of applying a binder to
10 portions of at least one of the side-by-side separate strips along the gap comprises the acts of exposing opposing side edges of the strips lying along the gap and dispensing a binder on one or both of the opposing side edges of the strips.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the act of applying a binder to
15 portions of at least one of the side-by-side separate strips along the gap further comprises manipulating at least one of the strips to arrange the opposing side edges of the strips to cause binder dispensed on one or both of the opposing side edges to polymerize during exposure to the curing heat to bond with the strips to establish the frangible polymerized binder bridge

10. The method of claim 8, wherein the act of applying a binder to
20 portions of at least one of the side-by-side separate strips along the gap further comprises mating the opposing side edges of the strips to cause any binder deposited therebetween to polymerize during exposure to the curing heat to establish the frangible polymerized binder bridge.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein the act of applying a binder to
25 portions of at least one of the side-by-side separate strips along the gap further comprises the acts of locating a dispenser in the gap and using the dispenser to dispense a binder into the gap between the strips.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the act of applying a binder to
30 portions of at least one of the side-by-side separate strips along the gap further comprises mating the side-by-side separate strips to cause any binder deposited therebetween to polymerize during exposure to the curing heat to establish the frangible polymerized binder bridge.

13. A method of producing a frangible fiberglass insulation batt, the method comprising

passing fiberglass insulation through a cutter to cut the fiberglass insulation to form side-by-side separate strips separated by a gap,

5 using a strip separator to move portions of the side-by-side separate strips away from one another to provide a widened gap between the strips,

dispensing a binder into the widened gap between the strips, and

10 passing the two side-by-side separate strips through a curing oven to expose the strips and binder dispensed into the widened gap between the strips to a curing heat to polymerize the binder to establish a frangible binder bridge spanning the gap to produce a frangible fiberglass insulated batt.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the strip separator comprises a knife blade mounted for oscillatory movement in the gap and an oscillator coupled to the knife blade and configured to oscillate the knife blade in the gap to provide the
15 widened gap between the strips.

15. The method of claim 13, wherein the strip separator comprises an air knife providing means for discharging pressurized air into the gap to provide the widened gap between the strips.

16. The method of claim 13, wherein the strip separator comprises
20 a conduit arranged to intercept the side-by-side separate strips along the gap and formed to include means for discharging pressurized air into the gap to provide the widened gap between the strips.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the conduit further includes means for dispensing binder into the widened gap to accomplish the act of dispensing
25 a binder into the widened gap between the strips.

18. The method of claim 13, wherein the strip separator comprises a ram and means for moving the ram to engage the side-by-side separate strips as the strips move relative to the ram to form a series of binder-receiver pockets in the strips along the gap, which binder-receiver pockets cooperate to form the widened gap.

30 19. The method of claim 13, wherein the act of using a strip separator to move portions of the side-by-side separate strips away from one another to provide a widened gap between the strips comprises the act of applying a force to

one or both of a first side edge of a first of the strips and a second side edge of a second of the strips, the first and second side edges lying in opposed relation to one another to define the gap therebetween, to provide the widened gap between the strips.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein the act of dispensing a binder
5 into the widened gap between the strips comprises discharging a binder onto one or both of the first and second side edges of the strips.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein the act of dispensing a binder
into the widened gap between the strips further comprises manipulating at least one of
the strips to arrange the first and second side edges to cause binder dispensed on one
10 or both of the first and second side edges to polymerize during exposure to curing
heat to bond with the strips to establish the frangible polymerized binder bridge.

22. The method of claim 20, wherein the act of dispensing a binder
into the widened gap between the strips further comprises mating the first and second
side edges to cause only binder deposited therebetween to polymerize during
15 exposure to curing heat to establish the frangible polymerized binder bridge.

23. A method of producing a frangible fiberglass insulation batt,
the method comprising
providing two strips separated by a gap,
dispensing a binder into the gap to contact the two strips, and
20 exposing the two strips and the binder in the gap therebetween to a
curing heat to polymerize the binder in the gap to establish a frangible binder bridge
spanning the gap to produce a frangible fiberglass insulation batt.

24. A method of producing a frangible fiberglass insulation batt,
the method comprising
25 cutting fiberglass insulation to form side-by-side strips separated by a
gap,
separating the side-by-side strips to widen the gap therebetween,
dispensing a binder into the gap to contact opposing side edges of the
strips defining the gap therebetween,
30 mating the opposing side edges to retain binder in the gap, and
heating the binder in the gap to establish a frangible binder bridge
spanning the gap to produce a frangible fiberglass insulation batt.